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			EXAMINER
758	7590	03/14/2005	DENNISON, JERRY B

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2143	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/771,133	DEBBER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	J. Bret Dennison	2143	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _28 October 2004_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-5 and 7-41_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-5 and 7-41_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Action is in response to Amendment of Application Number 09/771,133

received on 28 October 2004.

2.   Claims 1-41 are presented for examination.

3.   Claim 6 has been cancelled.

Claim Objections

4.   Claim 1 objected to because of the following informalities: It is not clear to

Examiner why the limitation "steps of" has been removed while the dependent claims

still contain the same limitation. Examiner will interpret all claims without the limitation

"step of" to clarify all claims. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5.   Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite

for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant

regards as the invention.

6.   Claim 40 recites the limitation "databases" in the second and last limitations of

the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Examiner will interpret the limitation as a single database, as specified in the preamble

of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

7.   Claim 36 recites the limitation "comprising users of types user". It is unclear to

Examiner what this means. Appropriate correction is required

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 16, 18, 19, 32, 35, 37, 39, 40, and 41, are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cheng (U.S. Patent Number 6,067,548).

8.   Regarding claim 1, Cheng discloses a computer-implemented method for

managing tasks, the method comprising:

accessing a first server from a client (Cheng, col. 18, lines 18-20);

retrieving by the first server status information associated with tasks stored on a

database for display to the client (Cheng, col. 18, lines 20-35, Cheng teaches retrieving

and displaying task information from the database);

receiving an instruction from a user for managing the tasks (Cheng, col. 18, lines

30-35, Cheng teaches authenticated users being able to manage tasks);

determining whether the user is of a type authorized to execute the instruction

(Cheng, col. 18, lines 33-35, Cheng discloses authorized users being able to execute

instructions);

responsive to a determination that the user is of a type authorized to execute the instruction, generating updates to the status information (Cheng, col. 18, lines 33-35, Cheng teaches authorized users being able to update status information); and

providing the status information as updated for display at the client (Cheng, col. 18, lines 33-34, Cheng teaches project and task management screens).

9.   Regarding claim 2, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 1, including encapsulating functions associated with the tasks as programmable objects (Cheng, col. 18, line 34).

10.   Regarding claim 16, Cheng discloses a method for integrating status information with updated information (Cheng, col. 18, lines 33-35), the method comprising:

accessing an account in response to an instruction received from a user (Cheng, col. 18, lines 33-35, Cheng discloses authorized users being able to add, delete, and update project and task objects and status, meaning that users access an account in order to have the ability to perform these functions or execute these instructions);

receiving the status information associated with the account from a database (Cheng, col. 18, line 26, 30-35);

receiving the updated information for modifying the status information from the user (Cheng, col. 18, lines 34-36, Cheng discloses that users can update status information); and

forming a combined presentation of the status information modified by the

updated information, wherein the combined presentation includes a representation of

the status information received from the database and a representation of the updated

information (Cheng, col. 18, lines 32-34, 50-53).

11.   Regarding claim 18, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as

described in claim 16, including storing the status information modified by the updated

information on the database (Cheng, col. 18, lines 8-35).

12.   Regarding claim 19, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as

described in claim 16, including wherein the status information comprises a plurality of

tasks and a plurality of anomalies (Cheng, col. 18, lines 8-35).

13.   Regarding claim 32, Cheng discloses a computer-implemented method for

tracking work flow information, the method comprising:

accessing an account on a server from a client by one of a plurality of users

(Cheng, col. 17, lines 54-67, 30-35,48-53);

displaying the work flow information in response to accessing the account

according to the position of the one of a plurality of users (Cheng, col. 18, lines 30-35,

50-53, Cheng discloses members being able to review project information);

modifying the information with updates (Cheng, col. 18, lines 30-35); and

storing the information modified to the database (Cheng, col. 18, lines 25-35).

14.   Regarding claim 35, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as
described in claim 32, including selecting an order in which the information is displayed
(Cheng, col. 18, lines 30-35, Cheng teaches that users can modify project and task
information).

15.   Regarding claim 37, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as
described in claim 32, including wherein step of modifying the information with updates
includes one of a plurality of users defining an anomaly associated with the work flow
information (Cheng, col. 18, lines 30-35, Cheng teaches that users can modify project
and task information).

16.   Regarding claim 39, Cheng discloses a system for tracking status information,
comprising:

        a server for accessing an account in response to an instruction received from a
client device communicatively coupled to the server (Cheng, col. 18, lines 18-21);

        coupled to the server, a database for providing the status information associated
with the account based on the instruction received (Cheng, col. 18, lines 25-35, 48-54);

        a module for maintaining a copy of the status information on the server (Cheng,
col. 18, lines 30-35); and

        a module for forming a combined presentation of the copy of status information
and updates provided by the client device (Cheng, col. 18, lines 30-35).

17.   Regarding claim 40, Cheng discloses a computer program product for deriving
services through one or more accounts from a database, the computer program product
stored on a computer readable medium, and adapted to perform the operations of:

assessing the accounts at a server in response to user instructions received,
subject to a determination that the user instructions are from a user of a type authorized
to execute the instructions (Cheng, col. 18, lines 30-35);

the server extracting status information from the database for a plurality of tasks
associated with one or more accounts (Cheng, col. 18, lines 30-35);

updating the status information based on the user instructions (Cheng, col. 18,
lines 30-35);

storing the status information updated on the database (Cheng, col. 18, lines 25-
29, 30-35).

18.   Regarding claim 41, Cheng discloses a program product for tracking completion
of tasks from at least one account, the program product stored on a computer readable
medium and adapted to perform the operations of:

accessing the at least one account through sign-on over a first server (Cheng,
col. 18, lines 30-35);

responsive to user input, selecting particular ones of the tasks for viewing status
information corresponding thereto, subject to a determination that the user input is from
a user of type authorized to execute the user input (Cheng, col. 18, lines 30-35);

providing updates for status information, the updates related to completion of

particular ones of the tasks (Cheng, col. 18, lines 30-35); and

storing the updates for the status information to the at least one account (Cheng,

col. 18, lines 25-29, 30-35)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-9, 11-15, 17, 20, 21, 24-30, and 33, 34, 36, and 38 are rejected under

35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng (U.S. Patent Number 6,067,548) in

view of Hayashi (U.S. Patent Number 6,026,365).

19.   Regarding claim 3, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as

described in claim 1. Cheng also discloses each object having attributes (Cheng, col. 4,

lines 5-20). However, Cheng does not disclose wherein the tasks comprise a plurality

of attributes selected from a group comprising a description, a completion date, a

priority indicator, a duration indicator, an originator, and an assignee. In an analogous

art of networking, Hayashi discloses a workflow support system that stores task

information including a description, start/completion/deadline, and assignee (Hayashi,

col. 5, lines 60-67). Therefore it would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill in

the art at the time of the invention to combine Cheng with Hayashi to provide a dynamic

workflow support system that allows the user to refer to and to trace the history and

progress state of control information for each task (Hayashi, see Abstract).

20.   Regarding claim 4, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as

described in claim 1, including wherein the step of generating updates to the status

information comprises tracking a completion date associated with at least one of the

tasks (Hayashi, col. 6, lines 10-20). Cheng does not explicitly state determining a failure

to complete the at least one task by the completion date corresponding thereto and

providing notification of the failure. In an analogous art, Hayashi discloses displaying

the current status of each task (Hayashi, Fig. 6) See motivation for claim 3.

21.   Regarding claim 5, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 4, including wherein providing notification comprises the

sub-steps of:

        determining an assignee having responsibility for completing the task for which

failure was determined (Hayashi, Fig. 6); and

        forwarding a notification to a manager associated with the assignee (Hayashi,

Fig. 6). See motivation for claim 3.

22.   Regarding claim 7, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as

described in claim 1. Cheng does not explicitly state including modifying the status

information based on the user instruction and storing modified status information in the

database. In an analogous art, Hayashi teaches when a user signs in to use the

system, the status information is set (Hayashi, col. 5, line 60 through col. 6, line 22).

See motivation for claim 3.

23.   Regarding claim 8, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 7, including wherein the step of modifying the

status information comprises the sub-steps of:

        determining a class associated with a group of tasks (Hayashi, Fig. 6 and col. 4,

lines 30-55, Hayashi teaches a shared environment wherein members of a group have

separate tasks);

        verifying that the class includes a parameter enabling modification of the status

information (Hayashi, Fig. 6, Hayashi teaches a status field); and

        responsive to verification that the class includes a parameter enabling

modification, modifying the status information in accordance with the parameter

(Hayashi, Fig. 6, Hayashi teaches a status field, When the status of the task changes,

the field is modified). See motivation for claim 3.

24.   Regarding claim 9, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 8, including wherein the class is selected from a group

comprising users, managers, and administrators (Hayashi, Fig. 6 and col. 4, lines 30-55,

Hayashi teaches a shared environment wherein members of a group have separate

tasks). See motivation for claim 3.

25.   Regarding claim 11, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 8, including the step of assigning tasks to a selected user

(Hayashi, col. 6, lines 1-5, Hayashi teaches setting the 'person-in-charge' field, who is in

charge of the task). See motivation for claim 3.

26.   Regarding claim 12, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 9, including wherein the status information indicates to

the users the tasks to be completed (Hayashi, Fig. 6 and col. 6, lines 17-21). See

motivation for claim 3.

27.   Regarding claim 13, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 9, including wherein the status information indicates to

the managers the tasks that are overdue (col. 6, lines 17-21). See motivation for claim

3.

28.   Regarding claim 14, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as

described in claim 1. Cheng does not explicitly state including wherein the user

instruction is selected from a group comprising an update to a task, and creation of a

new task. In an analogous art, Hayashi discloses controlling tasks (Hayashi, col. 5,

lines 60 through col. 6, line 21). See motivation for claim 3.

29.   Regarding claim 15, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as

described in claim 1, including:

modifying the status information with the updates (Cheng, col. 18, lines 18-35);

and

storing the modified status information to the database (Cheng, col. 18, lines 18-

35).

However, Cheng does not explicitly state maintaining a representation of the

status information on the first server. In an analogous art, Hayashi discloses

maintaining a representation of the status information on the server (Hayashi, Fig. 6,

Task Status). See motivation for claim 3.

30.   Regarding claim 17, Cheng discloses the limitations the limitations, substantially

as claimed, as described in claim 16. Cheng does not explicitly state transferring the

combined presentation to a client computer for display. In an analogous art, Hayashi

discloses transferring data to the client computer (Hayashi, col. 4, lines 5-35). See

motivation for claim 3.

31.   Regarding claim 20, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as

described in claim 19. Cheng does not explicitly state:

assigning a completion date to a first one of the tasks;

determining whether the first one of the tasks was completed by the completion

date;

indicating that the first one of the tasks is an incomplete task if it is determined

that the first one of the tasks was not completed by the completion date; and

providing notification of the incomplete task to an additional account for initiating

follow up.

In an analogous art, Hayashi discloses:

assigning a completion date to a first one of the tasks (Hayashi, col. 6, lines 15-

20);

determining whether the first one of the tasks was completed by the completion

date (Hayashi, col. 6, lines 15-20);

indicating that the first one of the tasks is an incomplete task if it is determined

that the first one of the tasks was not completed by the completion date (Hayashi, col. 6,

lines 15-20 and Fig. 6, Hayashi teaches a status field that indicates the status of the

task); and

providing notification of the incomplete task to an additional account for initiating

follow up (Hayashi, col. 6, lines 15-20 and Fig. 6, Hayashi teaches a status field that

indicates the status of the task to any users on the system). See motivation for claim 3.

32.   Regarding claim 21, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 20, including wherein the step of providing notification of

the incomplete

task comprises the sub-steps of:

determining a user associated with the account having responsibility for

completing the incomplete task ((Hayashi, col. 6, lines 1-5, Hayashi teaches setting the

'person-in-charge' field, who is in charge of the task); and

transmitting the notification to the additional account assigned to a manager

associated with the user (Hayashi, col. 6, lines 15-20 and Fig. 6, Hayashi teaches a

status field that indicates the status of the task to any users on the system). See

motivation for claim 3.

33.   Regarding claim 24, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as

described in claim 16, including wherein the step of receiving the status information

associated with the account comprises the sub-steps of:

extracting state information from the instruction (Cheng, col. 18, lines 18-35);

However, Cheng does not explicitly state determining whether a user-defined

display format associated with the state information exists. In an analogous art,

Hayashi discloses determining whether a user-defined display format associated with

the state information exists (Hayashi, col. 6, lines 15-20 and Fig. 6). See motivation for

claim 3.

34.   Regarding claim 25, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 24, including responsive to determining that the user-

defined display format exists, retrieving the user-defined display format from the

database (Cheng, col. 18, lines 18-35, Cheng teaches users being able to add, delete,

and update their information from the database); and

determining whether the user-defined display format is associated with one or

more tasks and anomalies (Cheng, col. 18, lines 18-35, Cheng teaches users being

able to add, delete, and update project and task information from the database). See

motivation for claim 3.

35.   Regarding claim 26, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 25, including incorporating the user-defined display

format with the tasks and the anomalies in the combined presentation in response to the

user-defined display format being associated with the tasks and the anomalies (Cheng,

col. 18, lines 18-35, Cheng teaches that users can modify their displayed personal

information). See motivation for claim 3.

36.   Regarding claim 27, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 25, including incorporating a default display format in the

combined presentation responsive to the user-defined display format being un-

associated with the tasks and the anomalies (Cheng, col. 18, lines 18-35, Cheng

teaches that the screens are designed for displaying and updating the information).

See motivation for claim 3.

37.   Regarding claim 28, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 24, including

        responsive to determining that the user-defined display format does not exist,

retrieving a default display format from a server (Cheng, col. 18, line 29-31); and

extracting tasks and anomalies associated with the user from the database (Cheng, col.

18, lines 18-35).

38.   Regarding claim 29, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as

claimed, as described in claim 28, including incorporating the tasks and

the anomalies extracted with the default display format in the combined presentation

(Hayashi, Fig 6). See motivation for claim 3.

39.   Regarding claim 30, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as

described in claim 16. Cheng does not explicitly state wherein the combined

presentation includes at least one form for representing the status information. In an

analogous art, Hayashi discloses representing the status information in a combine

presentation (Hayashi, Fig 6). See motivation for claim 3.

40.   Regarding claim 33, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 32. Cheng does not explicitly state wherein the information is selected from a group comprising tasks to be completed, and anomalies that are incomplete. In an analogous art, Hayashi discloses selecting tasks to be completed and anomalies that are incomplete (Hayashi, Fig 6). See motivation for claim 3.

41.   Regarding claim 34, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 33, including assigning each of the tasks a serial number and identifying each of the tasks by the serial number corresponding thereto when the information is received (Hayashi, col. 18, lines 18-35, Hayashi discloses storing all task information in a database, in which each field inherently has an identification key). See motivation for claim 3.

42.   Regarding claim 36, Cheng discloses the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 32. Cheng does not explicitly state wherein the account is associated with one of a plurality of users selected from a group comprising users of types, manager, and administrator. In an analogous art, Hayashi teaches a shared environment wherein members of a group have separate tasks (Hayashi, Fig. 6 and col. 4, lines 30-55). See motivation for claim 3.

43.   Regarding claim 38, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 37, including wherein the step of modifying the

information with updates includes a manager assigning at least one of the users the anomaly for rectification (Cheng, col. 18, lines 30-35, Cheng teaches that users can modify project and task information).

Claims 10, 22, 23, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng (U.S. Patent Number 6,067,548) in view of Hayashi (U.S. Patent Number 6,026,365) as applied to claims 2-9 above, and further in view of obviousness.

Claims 10, 22, 23, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng and Hayashi as applied to claims 8 and 16 above, and further in view of obviousness.

44.   Regarding claim 10, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations, substantially as claimed, as described in claim 8. Hayashi also teaches a private environment, wherein a user has control of the system (Hayashi, col. 4, lines 10-36). However, Cheng and Hayashi do not explicitly state associating access permission with the parameter by an administrator. It would have been obvious to one in the ordinary skill at the time of the invention to include access permission by an administrator of the system in order to provide a user with control of the group members.

45.   Regarding claims 22, 23, and 31, Cheng and Hayashi disclose the limitations,

substantially as claimed, as described in claim 16. Cheng also discloses only

authorized users being able to use the system (col. 18, lines 30-35). Cheng and

Hayashi do not explicitly state receiving a user identification number and a password

from the instruction, accessing the database to authenticate the user identification

number and the password, and responsive to the user identification number and the

password being authenticated, enabling access to the account, and generating an error

message for display on the client computer responsive to the user identification number

and the password being unauthenticated. However, it would have been obvious to one

in the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention that an authorized user, as

Cheng discloses, would require an identification and password to be considered

authorized, for the benefit of having a secure system where only users of the system,

and not unauthorized users, have access to add, delete, and update project and task

objects and status (Cheng, col. 18, lines 34-36).

Response to Amendment

46.   Applicant's arguments and amendments filed on 28 October 2004 have been

carefully considered but they are not deemed fully persuasive. Applicant's arguments

are deemed moot in view of the following new grounds of rejection as explained here

below, necessitated by Applicant's substantial amendment (i.e., *by incorporating new*

limitations into independent claim 1, requiring further search and consideration) to the

claims which significantly affected the scope thereof.

47.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 40, and 41 have been fully

considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments include the failure of

previously applied art to expressly disclose the teachings of "determining whether a

user is of a type authorized to execute the instruction" [see Applicant's Response, page

21]. It is evident from the mappings found in the above rejection that Cheng discloses

the teaching of authorized users being able to execute instructions such as adding,

deleting, and updating project and task objects and status. Further, it is clear from the

numerous teachings (previously and currently cited) that the provision for using "user

authorization" was widely implemented in the networking art.

48.   Applicant only claims "determining whether the user is of type authorized to

execute the instruction". By Cheng disclosing authorized users being able to perform

the functions mentioned above, Cheng teaches this limitation.

49.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 16, 32, and 39 have been fully

considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments include the failure of

previously applied art to expressly disclose the teachings of all of the limitations of the

claims. Applicant should be more specific as to how the claims avoid the references or

distinguish from them.

50.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 16, 32, and 39 have been fully

considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments include the failure of

previously applied art to expressly disclose the teachings of controlling access over the

tasks that each user is authorized to execute by user type within the shared

environment [see Applicant's Response, page 25]. As noted above, it is evident from

the mappings found in the above rejection that Cheng discloses the teaching of

authorized users being able to execute instructions such as adding, deleting, and

updating project and task objects and status. Applicant's arguments also include the

failure of previously applied art to expressly disclose the teachings of providing for

specific updates to the status information. It is evident from the mappings found in the

above rejection that Cheng discloses the teaching of authorized users being able to

update task and status information.

51.   In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the

references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by

combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention

where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the

references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in

the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)and *In re

Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, to provide a

dynamic workflow support system that allows the user to refer to and to trace the history

and progress state of control information for each task.

52.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10, 22, 23, and 31 have been fully

considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37

CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a

patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims

patentably distinguishes them from the references. Examiner cited He (U.S. Patent

Number 5,944,824), which discloses user authentication using username and password.

53.   Thus, Applicant's arguments drawn toward distinction of the claimed invention and the prior art teachings on this point are not considered persuasive. It is also clear to the Examiner that Cheng clearly teaches the independent claims of the Applicant's claimed invention.

54.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 10, 16, 22, 23, 31, 32, 39, 40, and 41 are deemed moot in view of the following new grounds of rejection, necessitated by Applicant's amendment to the claims, which significantly affected the scope thereof.

55.   Furthermore, as it is Applicant's right to continue to claim as broadly as possible their invention, it is also the Examiner's right to continue to interpret the claim language as broadly as possible. It is the Examiner's position that the detailed functionality that allows for Applicant's invention to overcome the prior art used in the rejection, fails to differentiate in detail how these features are unique. As it is extremely well known in the networking art as already shown by Cheng as well as other prior arts of records disclosed, task management by authenticated users is taught as well as other claimed features of Applicant's invention. By the rejection above, the applicant must submit amendments to the claims in order to distinguish over the prior art use in the rejection that discloses different features of Applicant's claimed invention.

56.   It is the Examiner's position that Applicant has not yet submitted claims drawn to limitations, which define the operation and apparatus of Applicant's disclosed invention in manner, which distinguishes over the prior art.

57.   Failure for Applicant to significantly narrow definition/scope of the claims and

supply arguments commensurate in scope with the claims implies the Applicant intends

broad interpretation be given to the claims. The Examiner has interpreted the claims

with scope parallel to the Applicant in the response and reiterates the need for the

Applicant to more clearly and distinctly define the claimed invention.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to J. Bret Dennison whose telephone number is (571)272-

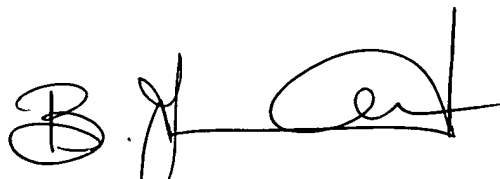3910. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (703)308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

J. B. D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2143

BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
PRIMARY EXAMINER